

Virtual Meeting

MINUTES¹

Thursday, 20 May 2021

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present: Yolanda Sonnier, Jon Steuernagle, Jackie Scott, Cheryl Mattis, Andrea Nunez, Dina Ward, Jennifer W. Ritter, Jessica Epps, Lisa Davis, Lt. Eric Kruhm, Mariam Imohi, Leslie Iampieri, Sara Cochran, Monica Krebs and Mariana Izraelson.

Members Absent: Andrew Heiliger, Alicia Altamirano, Chuck Chandler, Maura Rossman, Lisa Myers, Rich Gibson, Stephen Liggett Creel, Dave Francis and Donna Bauer.

Others in Attendance: Susan Ritter, Kathy Jordan, Leslie Petak, Susan Allen, Nick Weikel, Briana Davis and Gayle Miller.

MEETING SUMMARY:

1. MEETING OPEN

- a. 1:05 pm; Yolanda Sonnier, Chair, Howard County Human Trafficking Prevention Coordination Council (HTPCC), opened the meeting by welcoming committee members.

2. Establishment of Quorum and Recognition of Special Guests

- a. The Roll was taken: Thirteen Committee members were in attendance. Yolanda Sonnier declared the Committee was in quorum and brought the meeting to order.

3. Consideration of Meeting Minutes

- a. Ms. Sonnier entered the 18 March 2021 Committee minutes and opened for discussion. She requested an edit to include the recommendation for a panel discussion under 6b. April Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Lisa Davis motioned to accept the minutes as written and Monica Krebs seconded the motion. A voice vote of official members was taken and approved without opposition or abstentions.

4. March- April Events and Old Business

- a. Training, Outreach and Partnerships Committee Updates: Nick Weikel, Chair, provided the committee report. The committee has continued to discuss the use of social media to share information about human trafficking.

Andrea Nunez added that the committee has decided to hold off on planning any virtual meet and greet events, to instead focus their efforts on expanding community partnerships.

- b. Medical Committee Updates: Leslie Iampieri, Chair, shared the committees concern about the lack of drug treatment options available in Howard County. To gain greater insight, the committee intends on gathering more data to assess the need for more options within county.



Eric Kruhm noted that the lack of detox options available was an overall problem, not specifically related to human trafficking. He shared that the county has made steps to address the issue by arranging with Sheppard Pratt to hold several beds.

Leslie Lampieri concluded that next steps are to continue training hospital staff and drafting a trafficking assessment to be administered as part of the triage process. The committee will hold quarterly meetings.

- c. Policy and Legislation Committee Updates: Monica Krebs, Committee Chair, reported the committee continues to discuss recommendations and policies that could inform the work of the council in the fight against both labor and sex trafficking. In consideration of the recent Atlanta shooting, the committee discussed illicit massage businesses and possible legislation to address the issue in Howard County. Monica Krebs noted she facilitated connections between law enforcement and others doing the work.
- d. Real Estate Committee Updates: Andrea Nunez noted the Real Estate Committee is currently taking a hiatus until in-person meetings can resume. There are currently no meetings planned.
- e. Review of Sexual Assault Awareness Month Panel Discussion: Yolanda Sonnier thanked Andrea Nunez for an excellent job of organizing the Sexual Assault Awareness Event on 29 April 2021. She noted the event was both worthwhile and educational.

Sara Cochran expressed she also enjoyed the event and recommended providing more advanced notice to share among the community and professional networks. She shared that she attended the recent film screening and discussion, *Sisters Rising*, organized and directed by HopeWorks youth leaders. She suggested coordinating with HopeWorks to offer a movie screening for next year's event.

Monica Krebs suggested reviewing the calendar to determine possible events to organize in advance. She noted possible dates of importance: July 31st as World Trafficking in Persons Day² and October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Yolanda Sonnier suggested planning for future awareness events, such as the upcoming World Trafficking in Persons Day, be housed within a committee. Andrea Nunez offered to coordinate a separate planning workgroup.

5. New Business

- a. OVC Training Debrief: Andrea Nunez, Mariam Imohi and Briana Davis summarized the OVC Grantee Meeting held 26 April 2021 to 30 April 2021 (Please see attachment A.).

Andrea Nunez described the main deliverables required under the grant, specifically regarding action research and developing task force protocols. She opened discussion for feedback and ideas for pursuing action research.



Monica Krebs stated she had experience writing protocols and offered to assist with drafting the task force protocols. Andrea Nunez suggested protocol development could be discussed during the Policy and Legislation Committee Meetings.

Yolanda Sonnier suggested research could explore the vulnerabilities of youth who are ageing out of the foster care system.

Monica Krebs echoed Ms. Sonnier, stating that more research on the foster care system is important, while also acknowledging the need for more research on labor trafficking.

In closing, Andrea Nunez reminded appointed members of the online self-training requirements. She requested that all members who have not already completed the *Human Trafficking 101* training³ do so at their earliest convenience.

6. Announcements and Events of Importance

- a. June 30: Training Outreach and Partnerships Committee Meeting, 10:00am-11:00am.
- b. July 15: Human Trafficking Prevention Coordination Council Full Meeting, 1:00pm – 2:30pm.

7. Additional Items for Discussion

- a. The committee acknowledged departing members, Jay Prager, representative for the Health Department and Sara Smoley, representative for Grassroots. The committee noted the need for a new representative for Health Department. Mariana Izrealson, Director at Grassroots, introduced herself as the new council representative.
- b. Sara Cochran inquired about the appointment of the new representative for the faith community. Andrea Nunez explained the County Executive's Office is in the process of reviewing resumes and is confident to move appointment forward within the next few months.
- c. Sara Cochran inquired about the status of the "Dignity without Detention" State Bill⁴. Andrea Nunez stated she would determine the status and follow up with committee members.

8. Next Coordination Council Meeting Date(s)

- a. The next meeting of the Howard County Human Trafficking Prevention Coordination Council will be held 15 July 2021. The meeting will be virtual.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

- a. 2:50 pm; Yolanda Sonnier closed the meeting and directed the Council to stand in adjournment until 15 July 2021.

Minutes were drafted by: Briana Davis

Yolanda Sonnier, Chair



Notes:

- 1) The meeting was conducted virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 2) More information about World Trafficking Awareness Day can be found at, <https://www.un.org/en/observances/end-human-trafficking-day>
- 3) University of Maryland School of Social Work, *Human Trafficking 101* is a self-guided training that can be accessed online, <https://www.ssw.umaryland.edu/pari/resources/elearning-units/>.
- 4) Information regarding the "Dignity without Detention" State Bill can be found at, <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgaweb/Legislation/Details/hb0016>

Attachments:

- A) Presentation: OVC Training Debrief



ATTACHMENT A

Presentation: OVC Training Debrief

OVC HT New Grantee Training Debrief

Andrea, Briana, Mariam

Key Funded Technical Assistance (“TA”) Advisors

- Our assigned **Task Force Advisors and “the Roadmap”**
 - Erin Wirsing, ICF, longtime direct service provider in Chicago area, Florida
 - Erin Albright, ICF - national leader in field, former OVC fellow, wrote the International Chiefs of Police (IACP) HT Task Force **Roadmap** which is a guiding document for all funded task forces we have been using heavily..
- **Framework, Project Trust and OVC Capacity Building Center** - have resources, want to advise on our outreach content development, social media ambassador concept, outreach

Most Interesting Sessions:

- *Redefining Survivor Safety and Autonomy (Mariam)*
 - How do we ensure we are keeping survivors safe and respect autonomy.
 - Real life considerations for service providers like dealing with cell phones while maximizing autonomy, safety planning when a victim may choose to stay in touch with their abuser/trafficker.
 - Avoiding silent judgments, not over-imposing or providing unsolicited advice.
 - Takeaway: Well timed, these best practices will be incorporated into HopeWorks services and training for new hires.

- *Survivor Leadership (Briana)*
 - Survivor Lens vs. Entity Lens
 - Meaningfully Engage Survivor Experts
 - Amplify Leadership Opportunities
 - Limit Re-Victimization

Action Research (Andrea, Briana):

Tries to solve specific problems for specific orgs, doesn't apply everywhere, on an ongoing basis. Far more collaborative than traditional research. Ideal evaluator should have HT, task force and action research experience.

- **Las Vegas:**
 - Struggled to find right evaluator, had to go out of state, reviewed case data, looked for trends, recommended changes to operations, policies, etc.
- **Washington:**
 - Hired Dr. Kristen Foot, who was already part of their leadership team, long term relationship with TF. Was broad, 5 year plan for task force, had big and small issue focuses.
- **New Orleans:**
 - Hired Sheffield University, Dr. Laura Murphy
 - Focus: Struggled coming up with this. How do survivors devine well-being and how do we help them get there? Was well-done survivor online survey.
 - Their advice on how to pick the focus: Find lowest common denominator and look at that.
- **Western District of NY:**
 - Focus: Threat assessment to detect local industries that were vulnerable to labor exploitation and trafficking. Using the assessment, the task force identified the dairy farm industry as a focus area for building relationships and cultivating information for the proactive identification of potential victims of human trafficking.

What should our action research focus be?

- Focus on labor trafficking?
 - Outreach to vulnerable industry workers, some kind of a “threat assessment” like NY?
- Focus on gaps in services
 - Detox options?
 - More employment, housing opportunities in County for minors and adults?
 - HopeWorks, OHTP planning on this in coming years with survivor consultants
 - Labor trafficking capacity at HopeWorks
 - Training of key partners
 - Hospital, hotel underway, Grassroots retraining planned
 - All County staff underway



Protocols

INTERNAL FOUNDATIONS, OPERATION, & COLLABORATION

Protocols are essential tools that help to guide a collaborative response to human trafficking and document task force operations. Task force protocols are separate from but complement and tie together the internal policies and procedures of individual member agencies. Task force protocols may include the following:

- ▶ Information sharing
- ▶ Confidentiality
- ▶ Referrals on potential tips
- ▶ Referrals between law enforcement and victim services
- ▶ Victim rights and protection
- ▶ Requests for Continued Presence and T & U Visas
- ▶ Data collection and analysis
- ▶ Working with media
- ▶ Grant reporting
- ▶ Coordination of victim services
- ▶ Victim-centered & trauma-informed procedures
- ▶ Procedures for cases with large numbers of victims

Protocol development is a process. It is important for task forces to get the input of all relevant stakeholders and refine the proposed contents into an actionable protocol that is implemented in practice, not just on paper. Discipline-specific protocol(s) should be developed and reviewed regularly with partners to support consistency of response practices across the task force's member agencies and prevent or reduce unintended impacts.

NOTE: The term "protocol" in some jurisdictions is connected to a formal process of development and approval by actors outside of the day-to-day work of the task force. Each task force can assess that process for itself to determine whether and when they should engage. In the interim, if the term "protocol" is delaying development and informal approval, consider using the term "guidelines."

Meetings

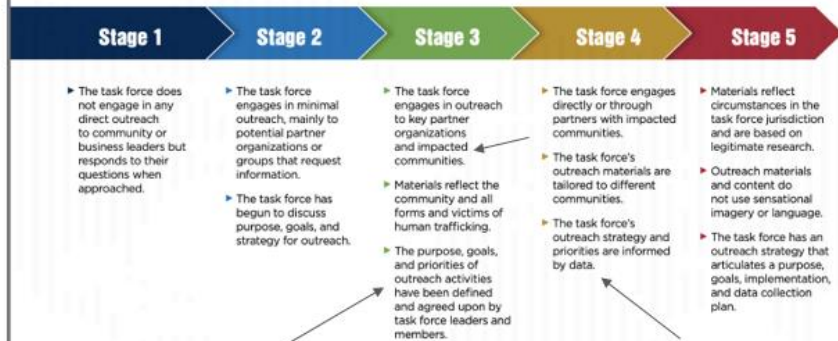
INTERNAL FOUNDATIONS, OPERATION, & COLLABORATION

Task force meetings are the cornerstone of the group's development, serving as a forum for building relationships, conducting training, exchanging ideas, solving problems, resolving conflict, and celebrating successes. Task forces can maximize the benefit of in-person interaction in meetings by engaging in collaborative work rather than reporting individual activities. Collaborative meeting sessions may include training development and content review, brainstorming or revising protocols, developing strategy, or group discussions that tackle ongoing challenges.



Outreach

Outreach can mean several things: (1) outreach to identify new partnerships, (2) outreach to vulnerable and impacted communities; and (3) outreach to the wider community at large. These efforts may also overlap. The primary goals of outreach should be to increase victim identification, expand capacity for proactive investigation, identify new resources, build and maintain partnerships, and generate community awareness.



---> Framework individual consulting request for us to create a pilot and long term proactive outreach strategy for us.

Status of Online Self-Training for HTPCC members: 13/19

Eric Kruhm
 Chuck Chandler
 stephen liggett-creel
 Dina Ward
 Leslie lampieri
 Lisa Myers
 Carolyn Leuba
 Sara Cochran
 Sara Smoley
 David Francis
 Jay Prager
 Donna Bauer
 ALICIA ALTAMIRANO
 Monica Krebs
 Lisa Davis

UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

PARI: PREVENTION OF ADOLESCENT RISKS INITIATIVE

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Human Trafficking 101

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Via an interactive, self-paced unit, explore critical elements of sex and labor trafficking and steps you can take to support victims and survivors in your community. This unit promotes learning through stories, activities, and short quizzes.

Elearning Unit.